

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0035] with the following amended paragraph:

[0035] Figure 13B shows predicted helices of the putative protein-binding region (BELL domain) of the BEL1 protein StBEL-05. The bold letters represent amino acids conserved in other plant BEL1 proteins based on a BLAST analysis of StBEL-05. The underlined portion of the sequence represents a predicted α -helix. A consensus for the prediction of the sequence structure was derived by using three software programs for amino acid sequence analysis: sspal, ssp, and nnssp (<http://www.softberry.com/protein.html>). Four deletion constructs from Figure 14B are designated with arrows. Construct pAD5-1 contains aa 230 through 653 of pAD-05 (interaction with POTH1), and pAD5-2 contains aa 257 through 653 of pAD-05 (no interaction). Construct pAD5-11 consists of aa 1 through 286 of pAD-05 (no interaction), and pAD5-9 consists of aa 1 through 315 (interaction with POTH1).